SEAHAM HARBOUR

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1900,

OF

The Medical Officer of Health.

SEAHAM HARBOUR:
W. J. Young, Printer and Stationer, 28, North Railway Street.

1901.

To the Members of the Seaham Harbour Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for 1900.

The population, estimated to June 30th, 1900, was 11,000; area, 1,080 acres; number of occupiers, 2,258.

424 births have been registered during the year, equal to a birth-rate of 38·5 per thousand, as against 40·7 in 1899, and 35·0 for the Administrative County of Durham for 1900. Of these births 201 were male and 223 female.

During the year 227 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred, including 11 in Easington Workhouse, 1 in Sunderland Infirmary, 1 in the Workhouse, Throston, and 1 in H.M. Prison, Durham. This gives a death rate of 20·6, as compared with 19·9 in 1899, and 18·6 for the Administrative County for 1900.

19 deaths were due to consumption, equal to a rate of 1·7, which is the same as in the previous year.

The respiratory diseases death rate was 3·4 as against 3·5 in 1899.

30 deaths were due to zymotic diseases, giving a rate of 2·7, as against 2·9 in the previous year, and 1·72 for the Administrative County for 1900. 17 of these deaths were due to diarrhœa, 1 to whooping cough, 2 to erysipelas, 1 to diphtheria, 1 to scarlet fever, and 8 to enteric fever.

74 deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality rate of 174 per 1000 births, as against 178 in 1899, 214·1 in 1897, and 167 for the Administrative County for 1900.

This rate is still far too high, and although the excellent leaflet drawn up by the County Medical Officer, on the feeding and management of young children, has been circulated in this district, many mothers do not yet realise that "boiley" and condensed milk is not a suitable diet for their infants. "Old customs die hard."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

69 cases of infectious diseases were notified as compared with 46 in 1899, and 68 in 1898.

25 cases of scarlet fever were notified. It was of a mild type and only 1 death occurred.

2 cases of diphtheria were notified from the same house. No cause could be discovered. Every precaution was taken, and the disease did not spread.

30 cases of enteric fever occurred, 8 of which proved fatal. 1 patient contracted the disease at New Seaham, and a sailor arrived in the Harbour suffering from it. 3 cases occurred in one house, 3 in another, and 7 relatives contracted the disease by visiting an infected house. This shows the importance of removing to the hospital all cases in whose homes the necessary sanitary precautions can not be taken.

The cases were distributed generally over the district, and there was no reason to suspect the water or milk supply.

The cause of the disease is, in my opinion, the old privy middens, many of which have on more than one occasion been the receptacles of infected excreta.

The sewerage may also be at fault, and the Surveyor has been instructed to draw up a report on the system.

No case of smallpox, typhus, or puerperal fever has been notified during the year.

13 cases of enteric and 2 of scarlet fever were removed to the isolation hospital.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The water supply was of the usual satisfactory character, both as to quantity and quality.

The dairies and lodging houses have been regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

18 old privy middens have been replaced by small ash closets, and 21 by water closets. I would recommend that water closets be fixed in all yards with a narrow entrance, as in many cases a nuisance is caused by wheeling the contents of privy middens through the houses and depositing it in the streets.

I noted with pleasure that the new houses in Dawdon Terrace have been supplied with water closets.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

L. GERALD DILLON, M.D.

BIRTHS.

Months.	Male	Female	Monthly Totals
January	20	14	34
February	22	20	42
March	12	25	37
April..	15	16	31
May	12	20	32
June	13	15	28
July	24	21	45
August	19	22	41
September	22	17	39
October	9	17	26
November	17	22	39
December	16	14	30
Yearly Totals ..	201	223	424

DEATHS AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Months	At all ages	Under 1 Year	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65	65 Years and upwards
January	26	11	3	1	2	5	4
February	25	6		1	2	8	8
March	18	4		1	3	6	4
April	13	6			1	4	2
May	19	5		1	3	7	3
June	9	1	1			4	3
July	17	3	5	2	1	2	4
August	22	13	1	1	2	2	3
September ..	21	10	3	1	2	3	2
October	22	5	3	1	5	7	1
November ..	8	1	2		1	2	2
December ..	27	9	6		2	7	3
Yearly Totals..	227	74	24	9	24	57	39

DEATHS, WITH CERTAIN OF THE SPECIAL CAUSES.

Months	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Monthly Totals
January ..				1		1		2	7	2		13	26
February						1	1	3	7			13	25
March ..								6	3	1		8	18
April ..				1				1	3	1		7	13
May ..			1					1	2	3		12	19
June ..			1						2	2		4	9
July ..						1		1	1	2	2	10	17
August ..						5			2	1		14	22
September	1		1			5		2	4	1	1	6	21
October ..		1	2			4		3	1	3	1	7	22
November			1							1		6	8
December			2		1				6	3	1	14	27
Yearly Totals	1	1	8	2	1	17	1	19	38	20	5	114	227

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1899.

CASES NOTIFIED.

Months	Number of Cases Notified	Causes				
		Diptheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric or Typhoid Fever
January ..	2				2	
February ..	3			1	2	
March.. ..	1				1	
April	6			5		1
May	4				1	3
June	2				1	1
July	3				2	1
August ..	2			1		1
September ..	20			1	13	6
October ..	17	2	1	2	3	9
November ..	5			1		4
December ..	4					4
Yearly Totals	69	2	1	11	25	30

CASES NOTIFIED AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Months	Number of Cases	Under 1 Year	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65	65 Years and upwards
January	2		1	1			
February ..	3			1	1	1	
March	1			1			
April	6	2	1		2	1	
May	4				3	1	
June	2			1	1		
July	3				2	1	
August	2			1		1	
September ..	20	1	6	7	2	4	
October	17		4	8	4	1	
November ..	5				2	3	
December ..	4					3	1
Yearly Totals..	69	3	12	18	17	16	1

SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1900.

1. Public Health Acts.		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ..	4	4
	Structural Defects..	2	2
	Overcrowding ..	14	14
Lodging-houses		2	2
Dairies and Milkshops..			
Cowsheds		2	2
Bakehouses		1	1
Slaughter-houses		3	3
*Ashpits and Privies		67	67
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		6	6
Waterclosets		4	4
Defective Yard Paving..		26	26
House Drainage	Defective Traps .. .	18	18
	No Disconnection from Sewers	3	3
	Other Faults	12	12
Water Supply			
Pigsties		2	2
Animals Improperly Kept		17	17
Offensive Trades			
Smoke Nuisances			
Other Nuisances		16	16
	TOTALS	199	199

* 18 replaced by small ashclosets. 21 replaced by waterclosets.

	Number
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	
Formal Notices served	
Dwellings dealt with	
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice ..	
Closing Orders applied for	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	
Dwellings permanently closed	
3. Water, Food, and Drugs.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	
Do. condemned as unfit for use ..	
Seizure of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing of selling Unwholesome Food ..	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ..	
Do. found Adulterated	
4. Precautions against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ..	12
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	14
Schools do. do.	
Prosecutions for exposure of Infected persons or things ..	
Convictions do. do. do. ..	

JAMES BURRELL, Inspector of Nuisances.

RAINFALL.

Month	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours		No. of Days
January	2·953	·730	1st	19
February . ..	4·460	1·530	26th	20
March	1·787	·510	26th	14
April	·720	·270	3rd	8
May	1·248	·350	8th	12
June	3·302	·440	11th	18
July..	2·023	·430	28th	15
August	4·870	2·300	3rd	16
September.. ..	·558	·175	7th	9
October	7·094	3·290	26th	21
November	2·660	·600	3rd	20
December	2·161	·460	3rd	16
TOTAL	33·836			188

The year 1900 was the wettest in 36 years, with the exception of 1872, when 41·620 inches fell in 148 days.

TEMPERATURE.

Month	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean
January	44·0	35·6	39·8
February	33·9	30·3	35·1
March	43·3	33·6	38·4
April	54·0	39·1	46·5
May..	55·9	43·4	49·6
June	61·3	49·1	55·2
July..	72·6	54·8	63·7
August	62·6	51·1	56·8
September.. ..	63·9	48·9	56·3
October	54·4	42·0	48·2
November	48·5	41·3	44·9
December	49·2	40·4	44·3
MEANS	53·6	42·5	48·3

Highest recorded, 83·9—July 11th ; Lowest, 18·3—March 18th.